

DO NOT FAVOR RATE INCREASE

Commissioners Discuss the Proposed Raise in Gas and Light Charges.

HOOVER AND DEFRESE TALK

"They Will Have to Show Me," Says Commissioner Huffaker.

Mayor Noncommittal.

"There is no sort of a reason for an increase in rates being allowed the Chattanooga Gas company. This company is purchasing gas, I understand, at 18 cents per 1,000 cubic feet and the consumer is paying \$1.10 per 1,000. There has been considerable question also as to the treatment of customers and the correctness of meters, and my position as to the gas company and the methods employed by its management is well known. So far as an increase in light rates and street car fares is concerned, I am of the opinion that this corporation has had sufficient increase by reason of the recent readjustment of rates. The street railway company also increased revenues from its system by discontinuing the sale of tickets, though this increase is not very heavy. Electric current rates are higher in Chattanooga than in Memphis, New York and a number of other cities which I could mention. There is no excuse for an increase in rates."—Commissioner T. C. Betterton.

"I do not believe that I should in a cause like this take the commission before hearing their side of the question. However, my position at present, after having heard some of the argument, is that the gas company should be allowed to purchase at 18 cents per 1,000 cubic feet and sold at \$1.10 ought to yield a fair profit to the gas company. I do not know what the Chattanooga Gas company and Light company will present. They have already increased light rates and carfare. Seems to me they should be satisfied."—Commissioner E. D. Bass.

"Have to Show Me."

"They will have to show me why they should have an increase in rates. The gas company, as I understand, has a very handsome margin of profit on its products. If the figures in my possession are correct, this company gets its supply from the Chattanooga Gas company at 18 cents per 1,000 cubic feet and furnishes the same to its consumers at \$1.10. Their contract with the by-products company extends over a period of years. Of course, labor and material have increased, but the gas company's principal item of expense has decreased. They cannot use all the gas furnished under their contract and the question of coal does not enter into the matter. As to the rise in light rates and street car fare I am not in a position to express myself at present. I am knowing the financial condition of the Chattanooga Gas company and Light company. I am open to conviction on this subject. The public service corporation to operate at a loss. However, there have been many complaints since the readjustment of light rates, particularly regarding the bills for electric current have increased very materially during the past few months."—Commissioner H. D. Huffaker.

Favors Reduction.
"I am in favor of reducing rates of the gas company rather than increasing them, and am today writing to Gov. Rye, putting all facts as to this company before him. If we had the power, I would favor reducing their rates from \$1.10 to 75 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. They could make a handsome profit at the latter figure. Regarding the Chattanooga Gas company and Light company, they recently increased rates because the commission had no power to prevent it. I am absolutely opposed to further increase in rates."—Commissioner E. D. Herron.

Mayor Littleton, asked for a statement, said that he had heard nothing of the matter and wished to read the story of the Nashville meeting before committing himself.

Averse to Talking.

While commissioners were averse to discussing the question whether an increase in rates would be allowed the Chattanooga Gas company and Light company, a conference of public utilities officials of the state with Gov. Tom C. Rye, held in Nashville Wednesday, said that there was a misunderstanding on the part of the press in regard to the meeting. Mr. DeFrees, who was the only representative of Chattanooga utilities, but that representatives of gas, light and street car companies from all over the state had met the governor to discuss the financial condition of these corporations, many of which, according to Mr. DeFrees, face bankruptcy unless rates are increased.

It will be recalled that the president recently appointed a public utility commission for Tennessee. Mr. DeFrees is secretary of this commission and it was in this capacity that he went to the Nashville conference. T. H. Tutwiler, of the Memphis Railway and Light company, is chairman of this commission, and F. W. Hoover, vice-president of the Chattanooga Railway and Light company, is the third member.

"We are simply trying to carry out the wishes of the president, who has said that during the nation's crisis public utilities must be maintained at the highest point of efficiency. With the rapid increase in the cost of labor and material many public service corporations will be forced to go out of business unless rates are increased. The gas company does not conform to the question of rates immediately, but it is highly probable that such a step will become necessary."—Mayor Go to Courts.

Mr. DeFrees intimated that in the

event officials in various localities refused to allow increase in rates some course would be outlined which would force the issue. It is probable that the matter would be taken into the courts, though Mr. DeFrees would not say that this would be done.

Eighty electric light companies, nine street railway companies and eight gas companies were represented at the Nashville conference, and it is understood the representatives of these corporations presented figures to show that they are in an alarming condition financially. According to reports, Gov. Rye listened attentively to the claims set forth and pledged his cooperation and support. The state commission on public utilities will meet within the next thirty days to continue the program begun Wednesday.

Reasons for Increase.
Vice-President F. W. Hoover, of the Chattanooga Railway and Light company, asked for a statement as to the proposed increase in rates, went at some length into an explanation of the financial condition of his company. He said they were not asking an increase just now, but wanted the people to know their condition in order that the matter might be considered in a fair and dispassionate manner when the increase becomes absolutely necessary. Mr. Hoover said the position of his company had been thoroughly explained in advertisements setting forth the reasons why an increase in rates should be granted. He called attention to recent letters of the president, the secretary of the treasury and the controller of the currency in which it was urged that public utilities be maintained at their maximum efficiency. Quoting from the president, Mr. Hoover said the nation's chief executive had emphasized the necessity for public utilities. "The nation's welfare is dependent upon these corporations and they cannot render the service required of them if they are not allowed to charge a reasonable rate. It should be remembered that material, necessary to the operation of our business, has advanced all the way from 75 to 150 per cent. Only recently we granted an increase in wages and other increases must follow."

Business Affected.
"The daylight saving bill has materially affected our business. Although we have not yet received the month of April our revenues from current were 10 per cent. less than for the same month of last year. During May, June and July the decrease will be even greater. We are now in position to say whether the readjustment in rates made last fall will produce an increase in revenue. It is more than likely the slight increase from this source will be more than offset by the loss incurred through the daylight saving bill."

Statistics presented by Mr. Hoover show that in more than forty cities of the United States increase in rates have been allowed various public service companies because of war conditions prevailing.

Just when application for increases will be made by the Chattanooga Gas company and the Chattanooga Railway and Light company is uncertain, but it seems sure that hard sledding is ahead for the corporations. The matter comes before the commission.

HUN SECRETARY HOPES PEACE WILL HEAL RUMANIA

Elaborator of Treaty Feigns Sympathy for Partitioned Nation.

Amsterdam, May 3.—The German foreign secretary, Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, according to a Bucharest dispatch on the signing of the Rumanian peace treaty, hopes that this peace not only corresponds with the political and economic interests of the allied powers, but will also enable Rumania to establish herself and heal the wounds of the war.

NEW YORK STOCK LIST.

	Wed.	Thurs.
American Beet Sugar	73 1/2	74 1/2
American Cotton	23 1/2	24 1/2
American Cattle and Hides	78 1/2	79 1/2
American Locomotive	63 1/2	64 1/2
American Linseed	23 1/2	24 1/2
American Smelter Ref.	79 1/2	80 1/2
American Sugar	107 1/2	108 1/2
American T. and T.	87 1/2	88 1/2
Anaconda Copper	84 1/2	85 1/2
Atlantic Coast	111 1/2	112 1/2
Baldwin Locomotive	82 1/2	83 1/2
Baltimore and Ohio	53 1/2	54 1/2
Bethlehem Steel	84 1/2	85 1/2
Canadian Pacific	144 1/2	145 1/2
Central Leather	47 1/2	48 1/2
Chester and Ohio	59 1/2	60 1/2
Chi. Mil. and St. P.	40 1/2	41 1/2
Chi. R. I. and P.	20 1/2	21 1/2
Chgo. & N. W.	23 1/2	24 1/2
Colorado Fuel and Iron	42 1/2	43 1/2
Corn Products	39 1/2	40 1/2
Cuba Cane Sugar	29 1/2	30 1/2
Crucible Steel	29 1/2	30 1/2
Erie	15 1/2	16 1/2
General Electric	146 1/2	147 1/2
International Paper	124 1/2	125 1/2
Great Northern Pfd.	90 1/2	91 1/2
Great Northern Ore Cfs.	30 1/2	31 1/2
Illinois Central	50 1/2	51 1/2
Inter. Merc. Marine	24 1/2	25 1/2
Inter. Merc. Marine Pfd.	21 1/2	22 1/2
International Harb.	23 1/2	24 1/2
Kennecott Copper	32 1/2	33 1/2
Louisville and Nashville	113 1/2	114 1/2
Maxwell Motors	28 1/2	29 1/2
Michigan Petroleum	97 1/2	98 1/2
Miami Copper	28 1/2	29 1/2
Midvale Steel	47 1/2	48 1/2
Missouri Pacific	27 1/2	28 1/2
New York Central	71 1/2	72 1/2
Norfolk and Western	105 1/2	106 1/2
Northern Pacific	87 1/2	88 1/2
Ohio Cattle Co.	87 1/2	88 1/2
Pennsylvania	43 1/2	44 1/2
Pittsburgh Coal	53 1/2	54 1/2
Ray Consolidated Copper	87 1/2	88 1/2
Reading	87 1/2	88 1/2
Republic Iron and Steel	87 1/2	88 1/2
Sinclair Oil and Refining	23 1/2	24 1/2
Southern Railway	23 1/2	24 1/2
Studebaker Corporation	37 1/2	38 1/2
Tennessee Copper	19 1/2	20 1/2
Texas Co.	124 1/2	125 1/2
Tobacco Products	57 1/2	58 1/2
Union Pacific	121 1/2	122 1/2
United Cigar Stores	121 1/2	122 1/2
U. S. Industrial Alcohol	121 1/2	122 1/2
U. S. Rubber	54 1/2	55 1/2
U. S. Steel	54 1/2	55 1/2
U. S. Sugar	82 1/2	83 1/2
U. S. T. & T.	41 1/2	42 1/2
Wabash Pfd.	41 1/2	42 1/2
Westinghouse Electric	41 1/2	42 1/2
Wills-Cotton	163 1/2	164 1/2
American Tobacco	163 1/2	164 1/2
Atlantic Coast Line	90 1/2	91 1/2
Seaboard Air Line	104 1/2	105 1/2
Shoe-Steel and Iron	61 1/2	62 1/2
United Fruit	124 1/2	125 1/2
Virginia-Caroline Chemical	47 1/2	48 1/2

MAMMOTH GERMAN DRIVE AT POINT OF BREAKING

(International News Service.)
London, May 3.—A resumption of the mammoth German offensive on the western front is imminent, said a dispatch from a German dispatch today. The German troops and artillery concentrations are known to the allied command. The action yesterday against the Franco-British line south of Ypres was merely local.

Kaiser and Crown Prince Take Opposite Sides

In Sharp Dispute Over Delay and Ill-Success of Western Front Offensive.

London, May 3.—Former influential officers in the German army, supporters of Von Moltke, the former chief of staff, are agitating against Field Marshal Von Hindenburg on the ground that the German successes on the western front have not reached expectations, according to reports in The Hague, transmitted under reserve by the correspondent of the Daily Mail.

Another report, which, according to the correspondent, appears to have some foundation, is that a sharp conflict of opinion has arisen between Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, Gen. Ludendorff and the crown prince on the side and Chancellor Von Hertling and Foreign Secretary Von Kuehlmann on the other. The emperor, after considerable wavering, is said to have inclined to Von Hertling's side, although hesitatingly.

The Kaiser and the German crown prince are said to have taken opposite sides in the quarrel. The well known war correspondent, Hamilton Pyralis, sends a story from the front confirming reports that Von Mackensen will go to the western front.

BRITISH RESOLUTE TO STRUGGLE TWENTY YEARS

That Democracy Might Win and Germany Be Shattered. Americans Honored.

(Associated Press.)
London, May 3.—A dinner to 1,000 American naval and military officers and U. S. C. A. representatives was given at the National Sporting club last night.

Vice-Admiral Sims, in reply to a toast, declared that it was hoped that within the next fortnight the construction of new shipping would exceed the rate of destruction by German submarines.

After the dinner the guests witnessed a boxing exhibition between Jimmy Wilde, the featherweight champion, and the veteran "Pedlar" Palmer.

Sir Frederick E. Smith, the attorney-general, in proposing a toast to President Wilson and the fighting forces of the United States at the dinner, said:

"We, in this country, realize the immense contribution America is making to the fighting forces of the allies, and we are glad that America has now to see the spirit of the British and sacrifices they are prepared to make. We are glad that spirit stood higher and never has the British been more resolute to maintain the struggle for twenty years, in order that democracy might win and Germany be shattered. Undue and excessive expectations were entertained regarding the speed with which the American contribution could be made ready. I never had any illusions on this point. America was called upon to do in one moment a task a hundred times greater than any nation in the world's history has been called upon to accomplish. Never has a nation undertaken such commitments or flung itself more thoroughly into its task."

Terrible War Not in Vain.

"The very fact that we have with us in this war the sons and grandsons of men who fought in the great struggle between the north and the south is a source of encouragement, and a precious consolation. It is well that Englishmen and Americans should be brought together. They should create a warm friendship as their differences are only superficial. It is worth at least something that the Anglo-Saxon races, the legacies of a precious civilization should not be lost. The world's history has been the result then even the shipwreck of this terrible war will not have been entirely for naught."

TWENTY-SIX KILLED WHEN MINE IS STRUCK

(International News Service.)

London, May 3.—Twenty-three men and three officers were killed when a British mine sweeper struck a mine and was sunk on May 1, the admiralty announced this afternoon.

EXHAUSTED ARMEN RESCUED BY STEAMER

Two Naval Aviators Picked Up by Coastwise Craft Off Miami, Fla.

(Associated Press.)
An Atlantic Port, May 3.—Two naval aviators, in a state of exhaustion, were rescued by a steamer with their damaged hydro-airplane five miles off Miami, Fla., were rescued by a coast steamer, which brought them here today.

The aviators had fallen into the sea with their plane when its mechanism went wrong and told the captain of the steamer when he picked up that they could not have held to the craft much longer.

WILSON SHAKES HANDS OF BOYS BACK FROM FRANCE

Washington, May 3.—Twenty-five of the soldiers sent back from France by Gen. Pershing to aid in the liberty loan campaign shook hands with President Wilson last night between the acts at a theater. The youngsters, headed by Sgt. Hefferman, appeared at the theater to have a remembrance of the war. They were escorted to the stage and introduced to the audience, and when the curtain had been lowered Mr. Wilson went behind the scenes to greet them.

SEA TRAFFIC TO BE RESUMED END OF MAY

Sweden and Petrograd Again to be Put in Communication by Steamship Service.

(Associated Press.)
Stockholm, May 3.—Sea traffic between Sweden and Petrograd will be resumed at the end of May. A steamer which is now loading Swedish export articles will bring back a cargo of similar goods to Russia. Semi-weekly communication between Finland and Sweden is now in progress.

WILL ATTEND DINNER TO SUPREME COURT

Jackson Bar Will Honor Retiring Members of State's Highest Court.

Judge Nathan L. Bachman will leave Friday morning for Jackson, where he goes to be present at a dinner given by the bar of West Tennessee to the retiring members of the supreme court. Those in whose honor the affair will be given are Judges M. M. Neil, Sam C. Williams and Francis Fancher. Aside from the dinner distinguished guests throughout the state will deliver speeches. The program is an elaborate one and the entertainment promises to be one of the best of its character and kind ever held in the state. The retiring members of the court have just done themselves proud and have passed on some of the most important and important litigation. Judge Williams is from Johnson City, Judge Neil from Trenton, and Judge Fancher from Memphis.

From Jackson Judge Bachman will go to Memphis, where he will deliver an address on Sunday afternoon before the State Federation of Charities. The president of the Red Cross society will be a guest on this occasion. Judge Bachman is the East Tennessee member of the state board of charities and has done much good work in that capacity. Judge Bachman will return home Sunday.

ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT SENT BY BARON GATO

Expresses Implicit Faith in the Final Victory of Allied Countries.

(International News Service.)
Tokyo, May 3.—Baron Gato, the new Japanese foreign minister, sent a letter of assurances of the unwavering determination of Japan to stand by the Anglo-Japanese alliance and announcing his implicit faith in final victory.

He expressed his confidence in the final victory of the allied countries.

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U. S. WARSHIP SINKS GERMAN SUBMARINE

Shot Lifted U-Boat Out of the Water, Breaking Her in Two. Crew Gets Extra Furlough.

(Associated Press.)
London (Vice-Ottawa), May 3.—In April, merchant ships with an aggregate gross tonnage of 111,533 were completed in yards of the United Kingdom and entered for service, compared with 181,874 in March, according to an admiralty statement. The total for the year ended April 30, was 1,279,337 tons. Last month's output was achieved notwithstanding a large increase in the repairing of merchantmen.

The amount of shipping completed in allied and neutral countries in the first quarter of 1918, was 344,372 tons. Yards of the United Kingdom turned out 320,280 tons in this period. The admiralty statement also shows that the total construction in 1917 in the United Kingdom and allied and neutral countries was 2,907,788 tons, of which the United Kingdom produced 1,163,474 tons.

Washington, May 3.—Officials here were unable today to reconcile the British announcement of tonnage built in allied countries during the first quarter of 1918, if the United States is included, with the output of American yards, amounting to 366,941 tons in that period. Yards in the United Kingdom were said to have turned out 320,280 tons, but inasmuch as the total of all allied countries was only 344,372 tons, it was thought here that perhaps the British figures did not include the United States.

LESSONS TAUGHT BY NOTED PICTURE

Canvas Portrays World's Conqueror—Two Thoughts Suggest Themselves.

(By William T. Ellis.)
Hundreds of thousands of persons have seen the large picture, "The Conqueror," which was exhibited at the Chicago fair, and has since been on exhibition in Philadelphia. No one who has ever looked upon it can ever forget it. The canvas portrays the world's great conqueror marching, with banners and insignia, in a solid column that dwindles off into the distance. Napoleon and Alexander the Great, Charlemagne and Cyrus and Xerxes and Ptolemy and the other men who beheld the world at their feet.

Two facts about the great picture suggest themselves to the thoughtful observer. The first is that these conquerors come to glory by a pathway of death, destruction and desolation. The canvas is repellent to the eye. It is a picture of the world's great conqueror marching, with banners and insignia, in a solid column that dwindles off into the distance. Napoleon and Alexander the Great, Charlemagne and Cyrus and Xerxes and Ptolemy and the other men who beheld the world at their feet.

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The sixth fact is that these conquerors come to glory by a pathway of death, destruction